

cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

OCTOBER 2020



LEFT: Historic Blenheim.

ABOVE: Historic Resources Specialist Andrea Loewenwarter reads the "diary on the walls" at Historic Blenheim.

SEEING THE UNSEEN AT HISTORIC BLENHEIM

The Historic Blenheim house on Old Lee Highway is a time capsule from the Civil War era. The walls inside the circa 1859 house are covered in drawings, signatures, and all manner of graffiti scrawled in various media by Union soldiers encamped there for a year at various times beginning in spring 1862. Historic Resources Specialist Andrea Loewenwarter has been deciphering the messages left on their "diary on the walls" since 1998. She has spent the past two decades identifying the soldiers (123 so far!) researching their service records, and fleshing out the lives of these mysterious ghosts from Blenheim's past.

Some may wonder why anyone would spend so much time studying fading inscriptions and doodles left by long-dead soldiers. Of the artifacts, Loewenwarter says, "They tell us about the common soldier, troop movements, and they tell us the stories of individual soldiers." Many of the soldiers who signed Blenheim's walls were from foreign countries, and their stories are part of

the country's 19th century immigration story. "Some became ill, others died on the battlefield, and others went on to lead productive lives," explains Loewenwarter. She is driven by an endless curiosity about the men's lives and how they fit into our regional and national story. "What were their thoughts on the war? Did their thoughts change? Why did they fight? These soldiers represent a microcosm of our history."

One incomplete signature bedeviled Loewenwarter for about 15 years. She could make out what appeared to be the letter *F*, but the rest of the inscription had faded away. Adding to the challenge of identifying what word or name the letter was part of was that the *F* also could have been a *P* or *T*. "With 19th century script, you never know," she says. "Lots of loops! It had always puzzled me, but I knew something else was there."

In 2015, Loewenwarter was researching new ways to study Blenheim's walls when she came across an article about ultraviolet light. Eager to try something new, she took a

trip to a popular novelty store and purchased a blacklight, the type of lamp often found illuminating neon psychedelic posters with purplish light on the walls of college dorm rooms.

Loewenwarter returned to Blenheim's attic and shined the blacklight on the low, angled ceiling. She says she "squealed with

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CITY NEWS

Reminder: City Hall Open by Appointment

Fairfax City government services continue to be provided as usual — and Fairfax City Hall is open to customers by appointment only, including DMV Select. Make an appointment by phone or via fairfaxva.gov (click on *City Hall Open by Appointment*). *Please note: General District Court and Office of Elections do not require appointments.* Visitors access the building via the east atrium door (facing George Mason Boulevard). Please wear a face covering. Information: fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7800.

Personal Property Tax Payments Due October 5

Fairfax City personal property and vehicle registration fee payments are due by October 5. Late payments will incur a 10 percent penalty, plus interest. Bills have been sent to taxpayers. To request a copy of your bill, call 703-385-7900 (then press 1). To make changes to your bill, call 703-385-7885.

Beginning this year, the city will issue decals only for vehicles registered at addresses in Residential Parking Permit Districts. Here are your options for timely payment of your bill:

- Secure dropboxes at City Hall (on the circular driveway and in the parking lot at the atrium's east entrance)
- Mail (must be postmarked by October 5)
- Online: click on *How Do I ...* on the city home page, and choose "Pay Tax & Bills."
- In-person: appointments required: visit fairfaxva.gov, or call 703-385-7900

Information: fairfaxva.gov, search "personal property taxes"

Download COVIDWISE App

The Virginia Department of Health has created a new tool in the fight against COVID-19: COVIDWISE, a free app for Apple and Android smartphones that sends the phone alerts if you have been in contact, or have been close to, an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. The app does not track or store personal information, or use GPS. Information: vdh.virginia.gov/covidwise

Don't Bag It! Curbside Leaf Collection Begins November 2

Curbside vacuum leaf collection will be provided November 2 through December 31 in neighborhoods that receive city refuse/recycling service. Please rake leaves loose to the curb. Bagged leaves are not collected during this time. Leaf piles may include light yard debris (grass clippings and weeds) — *but not stones, branches, and other large items*, which may injure workers and damage equipment. Leaves are collected in city

neighborhoods at least once every two weeks. Heavy leaf fall or inclement weather may affect leaf collection. Information: fairfaxva.gov (search "leaves"), 703-385-LEAF.

Prepare for Inclement Weather: Consider Service Providers, Communication

As winter looms, continue your safety routines: maintain your emergency kits and prepare for the season. Make provisions now for possible winter emergency services, such as snow removal, home repairs, and tree limb management. Family, friends, homeowner associations, and neighbors may offer recommendations. Identify multiple ways to reach friends and family in case some media is unavailable, including telephone/text, messaging apps, and social media. Write down contact information: keep a copy in every emergency kit, and share with all household members in case of separation.

Animal Adoptions

When is a good time to adopt a companion animal? Now! The city has animals available for adoption, and can connect you with regional partners, such as local animal welfare agencies, to help you find the pets of your dreams. To see who's available for adoption, visit fairfaxva.gov, click on *How Do I ...* and chose "Adopt...a pet" — or contact the Animal Control and Animal Shelter Office directly: 703-385-7919, animalcontrol@fairfaxva.gov.

Trick or Treat Trail, October 31

Celebrate Halloween with the city P.O.L.I.C.E. along the Trick or Treat Trail, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. October 31 at the police station. Cars will drive around the station parking lot, around police vehicles and equipment, and officers will distribute treat boxes. Costumes encouraged (as are face coverings and other appropriate health safety practices). Info: fairfaxva.gov, community@fairfaxva.gov



ARBOR DAY

The city's Environmental Sustainability Committee will teach you how to plant a seedling during a program from **9 to 11 a.m. October 24** at Providence Park. Seedlings planted during previous Arbor Day events continue to shade and beautify city school campuses. A limited number of tree seedlings will be available to take home. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, "As trees grow, they help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees provide many benefits to us, every day. They offer cooling shade, block cold winter winds, attract birds and wildlife, purify our air, prevent soil erosion, clean our water, and add grace and beauty to our homes and communities." The USDA Forest Service notes, "Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20–50 percent in energy used for heating." Gloves are recommended for this event. Social distancing will be practiced and masks are required. Those with COVID-19 symptoms should not attend. Individuals are encouraged to take personal precautions. Please R.S.V.P. to parksrec@fairfaxva.gov.



CURIOUS CITIZENS

What's the difference between DIY and contractor projects?

Do-it-yourself (DIY) projects are completed solely by household members who live in the home, including yard work and home improvements. The city collects this debris curbside. Contractor projects include work by non-occupants, such as friends, relatives and professionals — even when assisting household members. The city does not collect debris from contractor projects. Questions: RefuseRecycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837.

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

City of Fairfax

fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus

WeCare@fairfaxva.gov

703.385.7800

Text FXCCOVID19 to 888-777 for

City of Fairfax-related information

and updates (visit fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus for email option)

coronavirus for email option)

Fairfax County Health Department

(City's public health services provider)

fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19

703.267.3511

Text FFCCOVID to 888-777 for

Fairfax Health District information

and updates (visit fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19 for email option)

covid19 for email option)

Virginia Department of Health

vdh.virginia.gov 877.ASK.VDH3

CDC, Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention

cdc.gov

In case of emergency, dial 911



GETTING TO KNOW COUNCILMEMBER SO LIM



Why do you serve on City Council?

As we are going through so much growth and change, I want to be the voice for the residents. I want to make sure we plan out our future strategically, to grow smartly while keeping the priority on making sure our current residents live without too much disruption to their way of life here.

What one thing do you want to accomplish during this term?

The Asian American Festival I was involved

in getting organized was planned for May 2020; however, it was canceled due to COVID-19. I would like to make sure that we host our very first Asian American Festival during my term, and hopefully it will continue to be included as part of our events. As we have seen so much ethnic division in our country, I believe recognizing our cultural differences, and celebrating them, will bring our community together.

What do you love most about the city?

What I love about the city most is its small-town feel — and all of the parks, trails, and green spaces.

What is one thing you want people to know about you?

Friends call me “Laser” because I am so fast at putting what we talked about into action.

COUNCIL REPORTER

PLEASE NOTE: summaries have been edited.

To read the full Council Reporter, visit fairfaxva.gov and click on “City Meetings.”

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JULY 28, 2020

This meeting was held electronically pursuant to the law to undertake essential business of the city.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of an award of construction contract to M&F Concrete for the University Traffic Calming Project; Consideration of a task order in an estimated amount of \$108,621.32 to Volkert for construction management and inspection of the University Traffic Calming Project; Consideration of a fund transfer of \$114,000 for final milling and paving along north-bound Chain Bridge Road from North Street to the Rust Curve bridge, adjacent to the new sidewalk project; Consideration of a resolution to endorse the city's application to the National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town Grant; Consideration of revisions to City Council procedural and operational resolutions; Consideration to authorize the city manager to sign a Water Quality Credit Agreement with Fairfax County; Consideration of approval of the Community Policy and Management Team bylaws for the Children's Services Act Program; Introduction of an ordinance authorizing “quick-take” condemnation of a public street dedication and various easements on certain real property at 3735 Chain Bridge Road.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, the initiation of “quick-take” condemnation proceeding for the acquisition of a public street dedication and various easements on property at 10342-10412 Fairfax Boulevard.
- Approved, unanimously, the initiation of “quick-take” condemnation proceeding for the acquisition of a public street dedication and various easements on property at 10450-10452 Fairfax Boulevard.
- Approved, unanimously, an ordinance amending Chapter 98, Article II; amending City Code: Chapter 98, Article IV, Division 1, pertaining to local vehicle license taxes and the elimination of the requirement to display a decal in connection therewith, and associated provisions.
- Approved, unanimously, an ordinance approving and authorizing a license agreement between the City of Fairfax and the City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority for the use of certain parking spaces located on property owned by the city at 10367 Main Street.

ACTIONS OUT OF CLOSED MEETING/APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Appointed Paula Sorrell to the Economic Development Authority; Bruce Waxman to the Personnel Advisory Board.
- Reappointed Alice Lippert to the Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- Approved, unanimously, the following appointments to the Metropolitan Washington
- Council of Governments:

Independent Policy Boards: COG Board of Directors: Mayor Meyer (Councilmember Janice Miller, alternate); National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board: Mayor Meyer (Councilmember Sang Yi, alternate); Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee: Councilmember Tom Ross (Councilmember Jon Stehle, alternate).

Policy Committees: **Region Forward Coalition:** Councilmember So Lim (Councilmember Miller, alternate); Human Services Policy Committee: Councilmember Miller (Councilmember Lim, alternate); Climate Energy and Environmental Policy Committee: Councilmember Joe Harmon (Councilmember Yi, alternate); Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee: Councilmember Stehle (Councilmember Ross, alternate).

- Approved, unanimously, the Second Amendment to Employment Agreement as presented, and authorize the Mayor to execute the same on behalf of the City Council, subject to the approval of the city attorney.

Agendas Available on the City Website

Visit the city's homepage and click on “City Meetings” to read minutes from City Council, School Board, and Planning Commission meetings, and to view proposed agendas for upcoming meetings.

Connect2FairfaxCity

Connect to your city leaders and make your voice heard via Connect2FairfaxCity. Learn about agenda items, issues, and projects — and once you've created an account, participate in discussions and offer feedback to the Mayor and City Council. Your comments become part of the public record.



Connecting City Schools to the Community

The 2020-21 school year is unlike any other in the city's history. Due to the pandemic, Fairfax County Public Schools, and Fairfax City schools by extension, decided to begin the year with virtual learning. This decision has created many challenges for students, teachers, and families, but everyone is united in the goal to provide the best – and safest – educational experience possible.

Fairfax City schools operate under a one-of-a-kind system in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For more than 40 years, the City of Fairfax Schools and FCPS have worked together through the School Services Agreement. Under the agreement, FCPS provides instruction, staffing, transportation, and special education services. City of Fairfax is responsible for the tuition of approximately 3,000 city students and capital improvements of its four school buildings – Providence Elementary School, Daniels Run Elementary School, Lanier Middle School, and Fairfax High School (the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts is housed within Fairfax HS). County students are allowed to attend city schools with available space. The unique relationship under the agreement allows Fairfax City schools to offer an array of exceptional programs and courses not available in other school pyramids. (The top of a school pyramid is a high school, and its feeder middle and elementary schools create the base.) Examples of how Fairfax City students and teachers benefit from the School Services Agreement include:

- Providence ES, Daniels Run ES and Lanier MS all have regional and national award-winning STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and environmental education programs.
- Through city-approved funding, city middle school students received laptops two years before county school students did.
- Supplemental instructional funding for guest speakers, professional development, flexible seating, books, and special events such as Wellness Week at Fairfax High School. The city also provides financial support that benefits students during summer months, such as transi-

tion programs for rising students, classes to help bridge academic gaps, and preparing students for advanced academics through the Young Scholars program.

- City school teachers benefit from additional professional development opportunities such as National Board Certification tuition reimbursement and pyramid teacher development programs.

"The contract with Fairfax County Public Schools allows the City of Fairfax to benefit from a larger system that can offer and provide our schools with a wide range of academic programming, athletic and extra-curricular opportunities we would not be able to offer as a small independent system," says Carolyn Pitches, City of Fairfax School Board chairman. "We encourage city residents to connect with our school board and provide us with feedback and their experiences."

City of Fairfax School Board

A five-member elected school board and a superintendent oversee the School Services Agreement. The two boards and staffs work together closely. City school board members and staff serve on city, FCPS, regional, and state committees.

Advocating for Fairfax City Students and Families

The City of Fairfax School Board is the city's voice to FCPS. The board listens to city residents and students' parents and shares concerns with its FCPS counterparts. The City of Fairfax School Board works with an appointed FCPS board member liaison. The Fairfax High School pyramid is part of FCPS' Region 5, and the city school board and staff meet with Region 5 leadership consistently throughout the year. The two full boards and selected staff meet annually. Constant communication with the county creates an educational environment in which city students flourish.

Highlighted Accomplishments

City schools represent approximately 42 percent of the city's FY2021 budget. Here are some recent accomplishments demonstrating how your investment in city students' education is paying dividends.

- Fairfax HS was named a School of Distinction by the VA State Board of Education in 2019
- Providence ES earned Eco Schools Green Flag from the National Wildlife Federation
- Two Fairfax HS students were named National Merit Scholars and scholarship winners
- Daniels Run ES and George Mason University's partnership recognized as an Exemplary Professional Development School
- Three Fairfax HS students placed first at the regional science fair
- Providence ES named FCPS Best Elementary Website



Mentors from Mason's track and field program meet with elementary school students.



Daniels Run Elementary School students explore the outdoor learning garden.

- Fairfax HS Science Olympiad placed third in the state tournament
- Lanier MS was named a Green Ribbon School in Environmental Education by the U.S. Department of Education
- Through a new mentoring partnership with George Mason University, Mason's baseball team adopted Providence ES, and the track and field team adopted Daniels Run ES
- City of Fairfax Schools has more National Board-Certified teachers than in any other pyramid
- City School Board named three city businesses (Circle Auto Repair, Cameron's Coffee, and Fairfax Rehabilitation) to the VSBA Business Honor Roll for their commitments to our schools
- Daniels Run ES Parent Teacher Association was named a National PTA of Distinction
- Fairfax Academy alumnus was profiled in Vogue Magazine's May 2020 edition
- Lanier MS and Daniels Run ES named Virginia Naturally School
- ABC News profiled a Fairfax HS senior making PPE for first responders with his 3-D printer
- Twenty-five Class of 2020 Fairfax HS athletes are playing in college this year



NOVEMBER 3

INFORMATION

fairfaxva.gov/vote

703-385-7891

MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

IMPORTANT DATES

NOW: Vote by mail, and return your ballot by mail or in-person; information at vote.elections.virginia.gov

Early voting at City Hall Annex, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays

October 13: Final day to register to vote, or update voter registration records, in-person or online (info: vote.elections.virginia.gov)

October 23: Final day to request absentee ballots by mail, 5 p.m.

October 24 (Saturday): In-person early voting, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., City Hall Annex

October 31 (Saturday): Final day for in-person absentee voting: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., City Hall Annex

November 3: Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. — or return absentee ballots in-person to Office of Elections by 7 p.m.

WHAT TO KNOW

Q: How do I know if I am eligible to vote?

A: You must be registered to vote at your current address. Check your registration status at vote.elections.virginia.gov.

Q: I applied for an absentee ballot. When will I get it?

A: You should receive your ballot about a week from sending in your completed application.

Q: I applied for a ballot by mail but didn't receive it. What do I do?

A: Email registrar@fairfaxva.gov or call at 703-385-7891.

Q: Is there a secure ballot drop box where I can deliver my ballot?

A: Yes, the drop box is in the City Hall atrium accessible during voting hours, including Election Day.

AT THE POLLS

Wear a mask • Bring a blue or black ballpoint pen — NOT a gel pen, gloppy pen, or felt tip • Social distancing may cause lines on Election Day, so plan your time • Voters who are *in line at 7 pm* may vote

What's on my Ballot?



Are you ready to vote? Review Candidates and Constitutional Amendments below **before** you go to the polls. Long voting lines are often created when voters are unprepared to vote what is on the ballot.

President and Vice President Vote for only one: <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOCRATIC PARTY Electors for Joseph R. Biden, President Kamala D. Harris, Vice President <input type="checkbox"/> REPUBLICAN PARTY Electors for Donald J. Trump, President Michael R. Pence, Vice President <input type="checkbox"/> LIBERTARIAN PARTY Electors for Jo Jorgensen, President Jeremy F. "Spike" Cohen, Vice President <input type="checkbox"/> Blank	Member United States Senate Vote for only one: <input type="checkbox"/> Mark R. Warner - D <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel M. Gade - R <input type="checkbox"/> Blank Member House of Representatives 11th District Vote for only one: <input type="checkbox"/> Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly - D <input type="checkbox"/> Manga A. Anantatmula - R <input type="checkbox"/> Blank
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Authorized by the Electoral Board of the City of Fairfax
10455 Armstrong Street
Fairfax, VA 22030

Two Constitutional Amendment questions appear on back of ballot.



Constitutional Questions: Know Before You Go
Vote Yes or No to each of these two Amendments.

Constitutional Amendment #1 Yes/No

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts that will be subsequently voted on, but not changed by, the General Assembly and enacted without the Governor's involvement and to give the responsibility of drawing districts to the Supreme Court of Virginia if the redistricting commission fails to draw districts or the General Assembly fails to enact districts by certain deadlines?

Constitutional Amendment #2 Yes/No

Should an automobile or pickup truck that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who has a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be free from state and local taxation?

HOW DO I KNOW MY VOTE WILL BE COUNTED?

Q: When will my ballot be counted?

A: All eligible ballots received in-person by November 3, or postmarked November 3 and received by noon on November 6, will be counted. **Voting by mail is safe and secure.**

Q: May I return my mailed ballot in-person?

A: Yes. You may return your mailed ballot to the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong Street, by 7 p.m. November 3.

Q: If I asked for a ballot by mail, can I vote at my precinct on Election Day?

A: Yes. Please bring the absentee ballot with you to the polls. You will be asked to spoil that ballot before voting on the machine.

Q: What if I don't have my absentee ballot?

A: You may request a new one, absentee vote in-person, or go to the polls on Election Day and vote a provisional ballot.

HISTORIC BLENHEIM

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delight” when a complete signature was suddenly perfectly legible. “Lo and behold, *Hermann Franz Karl* appeared on the wall. That mysterious letter was an *F*,” she says triumphantly, recalling her discovery. “I was just so thrilled! I didn’t know that name was going to appear so well. I was just so excited!”

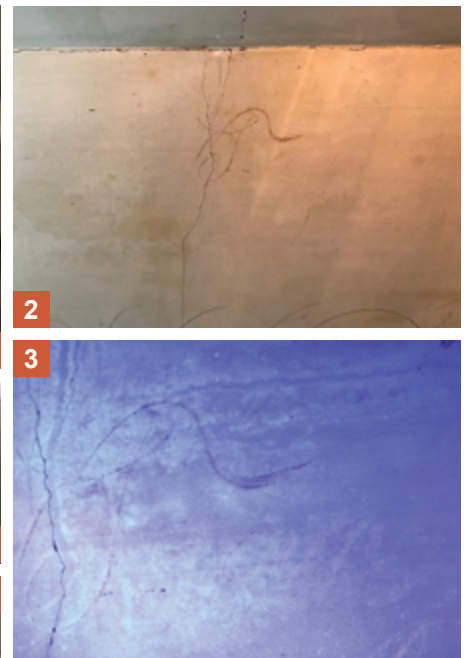
The blacklight also revealed the number 74 and the letter *P*. Using these clues, Loewenwarter was able to find the service record for Karl, who, she learned, had been a private in Company E of the 74th Pennsylvania Infantry and had fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. She shined the blacklight on all the walls, but no other names were revealed.

Piecing together clues to present a more complete picture of life in and around Blenheim improves visitors’ experiences, Loewenwarter says. Her work has led to a better understanding and interpretation of the historic site and its history.

In 2019, an opportunity to build on the success of the blacklight discovery practically fell into Loewenwarter’s lap. A regular lecturer at the Civil War Interpretive Center introduced his friend, Mike Toth, to her and other members of the city’s Historical Resources staff. Toth’s company has conducted multispectral imaging studies of manuscripts, murals, artifacts, and documents for museums, universities, and cultural heritage sites around the world – including the Library of Congress, Harvard University, and the British Library. Toth uses a specialized camera and LED lights to capture images in the ultraviolet, visible, and infrared light spectra. Toth’s 100-megapixel camera creates huge files with lots of detail, which require large digital databases for storage. For comparison, most smartphone cameras top out around 12MP.

Toth offered to apply his techniques at Blenheim as a pro bono proof of concept. Focusing on a small, illegible signature inscribed on the bare plaster wall, Toth improved the legibility of a soldier’s signature that read, *Stephen W. M.*, but the surname remained illegible. Through extensive sleuthing, Loewenwarter determined the soldier’s last name was Millichamp and that he had served as a private in Company F of the 1st Michigan Cavalry. Toth’s test worked!

The Office of Historic Resources was recently awarded a grant from the National Park Service’s National Center for Preserva-



1. Historic Blenheim attic. 2. This F is the only visible letter in a long-lost inscription. Or is it a P?
3. Like invisible ink, ultraviolet light reveals the name Franz. 4. Hermann Franz Karl is traced on a transparency in the replicated attic on display in the Civil War Interpretive Center.
5. Will the 124th signature be discovered on the back of wallpaper fragments?

tion and Technology and Training to continue Toth’s experiments at Blenheim. The one-year project will not only research optimum technology but also the image and metadata management needed for effective analysis and documentation of structural interiors. The published results will support preservation of historical structures by providing the preservation community with new methodologies for materials research and analysis.

Due to preservation concerns, Blenheim’s attic has been off-limits to visitors for years, and the entire house is now closed to the public to comply with social distancing guidelines. “This is the perfect time

for this work,” says Loewenwarter.

Historic Resources staff are excited to see what Toth’s multispectral imaging reveals in the regions of interest identified for study. In addition to the walls, Toth will make images of graffiti visible on the back side of removed wallpaper. Will more names from Blenheim’s past become known? What more will historians learn about the restless soldiers encamped at Blenheim? Loewenwarter is hoping, at least, to better identify some of the names. “I look at these things all the time. Things are there. I don’t know if we’ll be able to bring something out, but I’m encouraged by the success of the first test,” she says.



Learn more about the Bike Fairfax City Plan during a virtual public workshop from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 15. During the meeting, staff will share key findings from the existing conditions analysis and public engagement efforts, then break into small groups to review and discuss draft recommendations. We want to hear from you! Your participation will result in better connections throughout the city. Please register at fairfaxva.gov/bikeplan.



Shop Local Shop in Place

In Fairfax City, our mantra is to “Live Life Connected.” Whether it’s connecting with family, friends, or businesses, our ability to connect with one another is what makes Fairfax City special. In an effort to browse, discover, and ReConnect with businesses in the city while remaining socially distanced, the Economic Development Authority is coordinating an effort to highlight our city’s business community.

We invite you to check out these Fairfax City businesses and encourage you to “Shop Local and Shop in Place” whenever possible because our business community consists of neighbors, friends, and family. The city’s business community serves as the building blocks for our neighborhoods, and shopping local ensures a stronger economy, closer community, and creates unique experiences. Visit fairfaxcityconnected.com/shoplocal.



5 MINUTES WITH ...

SATOSHI ETO

STORMWATER RESOURCE ENGINEER



How long have you worked for the city?

I have been with the City in the Public Works Department for 16 years.

What is the “big picture” of your role? What are some examples of what this entails?

My main goal is to ensure the city maintains compliance with the terms of our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. This includes meeting the city’s share of pollutant load reduction goals for local streams, as well as the Chesapeake Bay overall. These goals are the primary driver for the stream restoration projects we have been working on. The program also includes annual inspection and maintenance of around 40 public and 350 private stormwater management facilities (BMPs), processing stormwater construction permits, and reviewing construction activities for compliance with their pollution prevention plans. I review development plans to ensure new construction meets stormwater quality/quantity requirements. Since meeting these requirements usually involves constructing BMPs, the number of these facilities in the inventory will continue to increase. All of

these activities are compiled into an annual report sent to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

I also work with the city’s wastewater utility and am currently developing a permanent flow metering program so our recently developed wastewater model can be adjusted with up-to-date flow data. This will allow us to monitor changes in flows that come with development in the city to plan ahead for system upgrades.

What are some stormwater challenges facing the city?

Because we are a small and urbanized jurisdiction, we have limited space for stormwater projects that will help us meet our pollutant reduction goals. One of the assets we do have is about 10 miles of stream within the city, and so our projects have historically focused on stream restoration, but we are branching out into other ways to meet these goals. There are about 400 outfalls, or points where stormwater enters the stream, and these areas experience erosion and require maintenance. We have a pilot program to conduct outfall restoration that addresses the maintenance needs while also generating credit toward our pollutant reduction goals. This approach can provide dual benefits and has the potential to be very cost effective.

Why do you love your job and working for the city?

I think one of the biggest benefits of working for a small jurisdiction is the wider scope of roles a position can have. While my focus has been in stormwater compliance for the last six years, I also have had the opportunity to manage road construction projects on Burke Station Road and Roberts Road, manage the in-house replacement of stormwater infrastructure in the Old Town Fairfax area, and even help plow and salt roads during heavy snow events. The ability to

branch into new things keeps my work interesting and has helped me gain valuable experience. I work with a very supportive group and I’ve been lucky to have had supervisors throughout my career who value education and encourage professional development.

What are some upcoming projects people should know about?

We are working on preliminary plans for two environmental restoration projects that will also provide the city with credit toward our Chesapeake Bay pollutant load reduction goals. One is a stream restoration project on the north fork of the Accotink, from Plantation Parkway to Ranger Road Park. The other is the dredging of Ashby Pond Conservatory and rehabilitation of the inflow channels feeding the pond. I am especially excited about Ashby Pond. I think that it will be an aesthetic and functional improvement to a unique area in the city.

What should residents know about your department?

We provide a high level of service and regularly meet with residents, community associations, and business owners to offer suggestions on private drainage issues, paving and concrete replacement, and other maintenance items — even if they are outside of areas where we have direct maintenance responsibilities.

Have you held any other positions with the city?

I started in 2000 in a seasonal position in Public Works, Sign & Signal. I would install and fabricate street signs and signs for the July 4th special event on my summers off from school. In 2004, I started full-time as an administrative assistant in Street Division, then became a facilities inspector in 2007. I filled a new role as stormwater program specialist in 2014, and most recently was hired as the stormwater program specialist in 2019.

Mayor David L. Meyer (david.meyer@fairfaxva.gov)

City Council

Joseph D. Harmon (joseph.harmon@fairfaxva.gov)

So P. Lim (so.lim@fairfaxva.gov)

Janice B. Miller (janice.miller@fairfaxva.gov)

D. Thomas Ross (tom.ross@fairfaxva.gov)

Jon R. Stehle Jr. (jon.stehle@fairfaxva.gov)

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City Manager Rob Stalzer (rob.stalzer@fairfaxva.gov)

- Large Print
- Recorded
- Braille

Cityscene is mailed to city residents and businesses by the first of the month and published on the city website. It is published by the Communications and Marketing Office to inform the public of government actions and events of interest in the city. Information is subject to change after publication.

Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

Para solicitar ayuda con servicios de la ciudad o preguntas sobre esta publicación, por favor llame al 703.385.7800.

본 간행물과 관련하여 문의 사항이 있으시면

☎ 703-385-7800 (무)로 전화 주시기 바랍니다.

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CUE Bus Superintendent Bill Nash and Mayor David Meyer cut the cake in celebration of CUE's 40th Anniversary.



HELPING HANDS



ZINTA RODGERS-RICKERT

PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

How many years have you lived in the city? I moved to the city on Christmas Eve 1992, and it snowed.

Why do you serve as a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board volunteer? I've always considered myself lucky to have landed in the City of Fairfax; I was looking for a way to get more involved and give back. Having young kids and spending time on trails and parks made the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board a natural choice.

What is your favorite park and/or recreational activity? Daniels Run Park is my favorite (and I so miss the Rock the Block events!).

Which little-known park should more people know about? I hope everyone knows by now the City of Fairfax has its very own dog park!

Why are parks important during a pandemic? To keep our sanity, we have to get out, get fresh air, and reconnect with nature and its beauty.

Do you volunteer with any other organizations? I have volunteered to socialize and hang with cats at the Humane Society, and I coached recreational volleyball.

What upcoming PRAB initiatives are you excited about? The improved connectivity and multi-use improvements for the George T. Snyder Trail.

What makes Fairfax City a special place to live? City staff, council, the mayor and our city neighbors! This community has its own small-town feel and super activities, all the while centered in a huge metropolitan area.



THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Board of Building Code of Appeals (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy); **Commission on the Arts** (one vacancy); **Community Appearance Committee** (two vacancies); **Economic Development Authority** (one vacancy; for information, email EconomicDevelopment@fairfaxva.gov); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (three vacancies); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy for an at-large member); **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy); **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (one vacancy); **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** (one vacancy).

To apply, visit fairfaxva.gov and search "boards and vacancies," or call 703-385-7935.